

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

COUNTRY	North Korea	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Hotel Accommodations in P'yongyang, Ch'ongjin, and Najin	DATE DISTR.	7 September 1955
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

1. In January 1955, licensed hotels in P'yongyang were available for properly authorized travelers only; therefore, unlicensed hotels and inns did a flourishing business. Young men between the ages of 16 to 18 were stationed in front of the square at the P'yongyang railroad station and met all major express trains. The boys acted as luggage porters and conducted travelers to hotels that served meals. The unauthorized traveler to P'yongyang had little other choice than to follow these boys; most itinerant traders preferred to stay at unlicensed hotels and inns. If no registration were required when a traveler reached a hotel or inn, the establishment was usually operating illegally and most travelers knew that meals could be obtained there for an additional fee. These inns and hotels charged about 100 won for a night's lodging and about 200 won for meals.<sup>1</sup> The boys who conducted travelers to these hotels could also usually be relied upon to get black market items and train tickets.<sup>2</sup> 25X1

2. In Najin and Ch'ongjin, many boys loitered around the railroad stations; but as these cities were smaller and living accommodations were more plentiful, the unlicensed hotels and inns were not as active as those in P'yongyang. Illegal rental and meal charges were about the same as those in P'yongyang, but it was more difficult to obtain meals in Najin and Ch'ongjin.<sup>3</sup> 25X1

1. Comment.   government-operated restaurants sold meals for 70 won. 25X1
2. Comment.   these boys treated travelers very well. 25X1
3. Comment.   reported about the hotel situation in Kaesong as of 1 August 1955. 25X1

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